



DC
COMICS™

24

SUPERMAN™ **ACTION** COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

KIRKHAM *art*

SCOTT
LOBDELL

TYLER
KIRKHAM

JESUS
MERINO

DEC 2013

RATED T TEEN

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PSI WAR:
ENTER THE
PSYCHO PIRATE!

METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL.

PATIENT #61938.

NAME: LANE, L.



I'M
TELLING YOU,
SHE WAS AWAKE
ONE MINUTE
AGO!

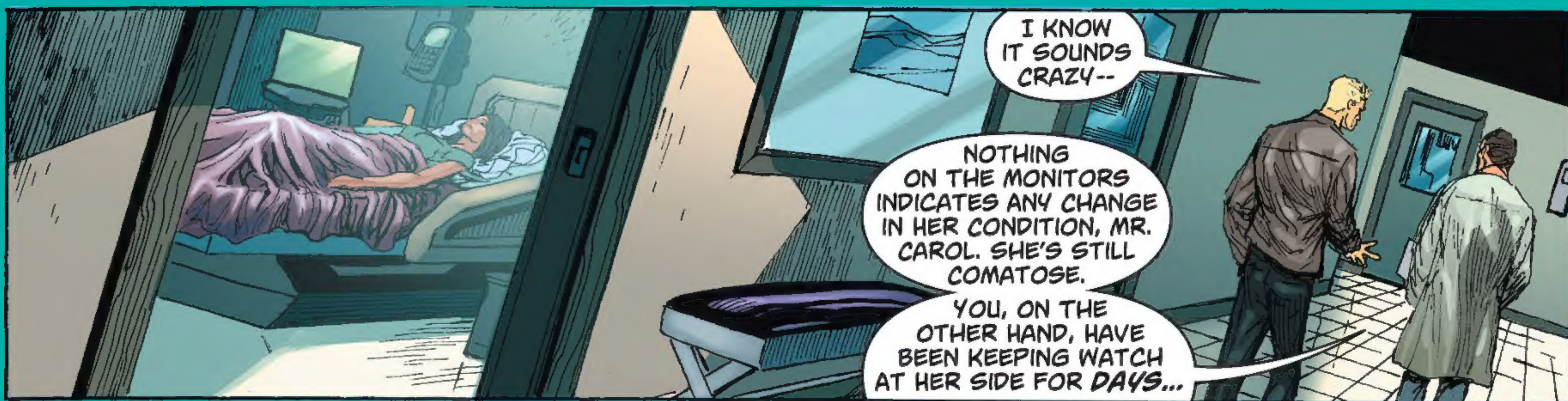
THERE
WAS THIS--THIS
BURST OF ENERGY
AROUND HER, LIKE
FIREWORKS--
AND SHE SAID
ONE WORD--

"SUPERMAN"!*

MR. CAROL,
MAY I SPEAK TO
YOU OUTSIDE FOR
A MOMENT?



*AS SEEN IN
SUPERMAN #23!



I KNOW
IT SOUNDS
CRAZY--

NOTHING
ON THE MONITORS
INDICATES ANY CHANGE
IN HER CONDITION, MR.
CAROL. SHE'S STILL
COMATOSE.

YOU, ON THE
OTHER HAND, HAVE
BEEN KEEPING WATCH
AT HER SIDE FOR DAYS...

EXACTLY--!

YOU
MISUNDERSTAND
ME. YOU'VE BEEN
GOING WITHOUT
SLEEP FOR TOO
LONG.

THE
MOST LIKELY
EXPLANATION FOR
WHAT YOU SAW IS
THAT YOUR MIND
WAS PLAYING
TRICKS ON YOU.

YOU'RE
WRONG, DOCTOR!
I KNOW WHAT
I SAW!

SHE'S
COMING OUT
OF HER
COMA!

LOIS!
LOIS,
WAKE--



...UP...?

AT THAT MOMENT, BENEATH METROPOLIS...

...IN THE HIDDEN HEADQUARTERS OF H.I.V.E....

"CLARK
KENT"?

REALLY?

IT JUST
SOUNDS SO...
UN-SUPER.

HE KNOWS
MY NAME.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT
THIS STRANGER CALLING
HIMSELF THE PSYCHO
PIRATE KNOWS MY
SECRET.

WHAT'S WORSE
IS HOW HE
KNOWS.

SOMEHOW
HE CAN READ
MY MIND.

PSY WAR

PART TWO

Written by **MIKE JOHNSON**

Art by **TYLER KIRKHAM** and **JESUS MERINO**

Colors by **ARIF PRIANTO**

Letters by **CARLOS M. MANGUAL**

Cover **TYLER KIRKHAM** and **ARIF PRIANTO**

Assistant Editor **ANTHONY MARQUES**

Group Editor **EDDIE BERGANZA**

SUPERMAN created by

Jerry Siegel and **Joe Shuster**

By special arrangement

with the **Jerry Siegel** family



WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HECTOR HAMMOND AND THE H.I.V.E. QUEEN?



WHOA! DON'T GET SO UPSET ABOUT IT!

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT AREN'T THEY THE VILLAINS WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO EAT YOUR BRAIN ALL DAY?*

I DID YOU A FAVOR!

*ALSO AS SEEN IN SUPERMAN #23! GO READ IT ALREADY!



I TOOK HECTOR'S MASSIVE NOGGIN OUT OF THE FIGHT!



AS FOR THE QUEEN, WELL, THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF HER OVER THERE...



...AND OVER THERE...AND THERE...

I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO EXPLODE INTO PSIONIC GOO WHEN I AMBUSHED HER!

AS FOR WHO I AM...



AND
IT STARTS
HERE, IN THE
HEART OF
H.I.V.E.

BEHOLD--





THE SWARM!

WHO?!



THIS IS THE PRIDE AND JOY OF OUR DEARLY DEPARTED QUEEN.

A PRISON FOR PSYCHICS.

THE QUEEN SPENT THE LAST FEW YEARS KIDNAPPING PSYCHICS AND STORING THEM HERE...

SHE PLANNED TO USE THAT ACCUMULATED PSIONIC POWER TO MENTALLY ENSLAVE THE ENTIRE WORLD.

STARTING WITH METROPOLIS.

I'VE SPENT THE LAST FOUR YEARS TRYING TO HIDE MY FELLOW PSYCHICS FROM HER. BUT I COULDN'T SAVE THEM ALL.

AT LEAST... NOT UNTIL NOW.

...SUCKING THE PSIONIC ENERGY OUT OF THEIR MINDS.

STEALING IT FOR HERSELF.

HERE ARE HER MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS.

RECOGNIZE THEM?

YOUR FRIEND LOIS LANE HAS BEEN RELENTLESS IN HER PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THEM.*

*AS SEEN IN SUPERMAN ANNUAL #2!

THE TWENTY.

BINGO.

TWENTY INNOCENT PEOPLE, ALL LEFT WITH INCREDIBLE PSIONIC POWERS IN THE WAKE OF BRAINIAC'S LITTLE VISIT TO EARTH A FEW YEARS BACK.

BRAINIAC'S BEHIND THIS?

YEAH. AND BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR SAVING THE DAY BACK THEN. SINCERELY. NICE WORK. LOVED THE WHITE T-SHIRT LOOK.

BUT HERE'S THE THING...

BRAINIAC'S COMING BACK. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN, BUT WE KNOW WHAT FOR.

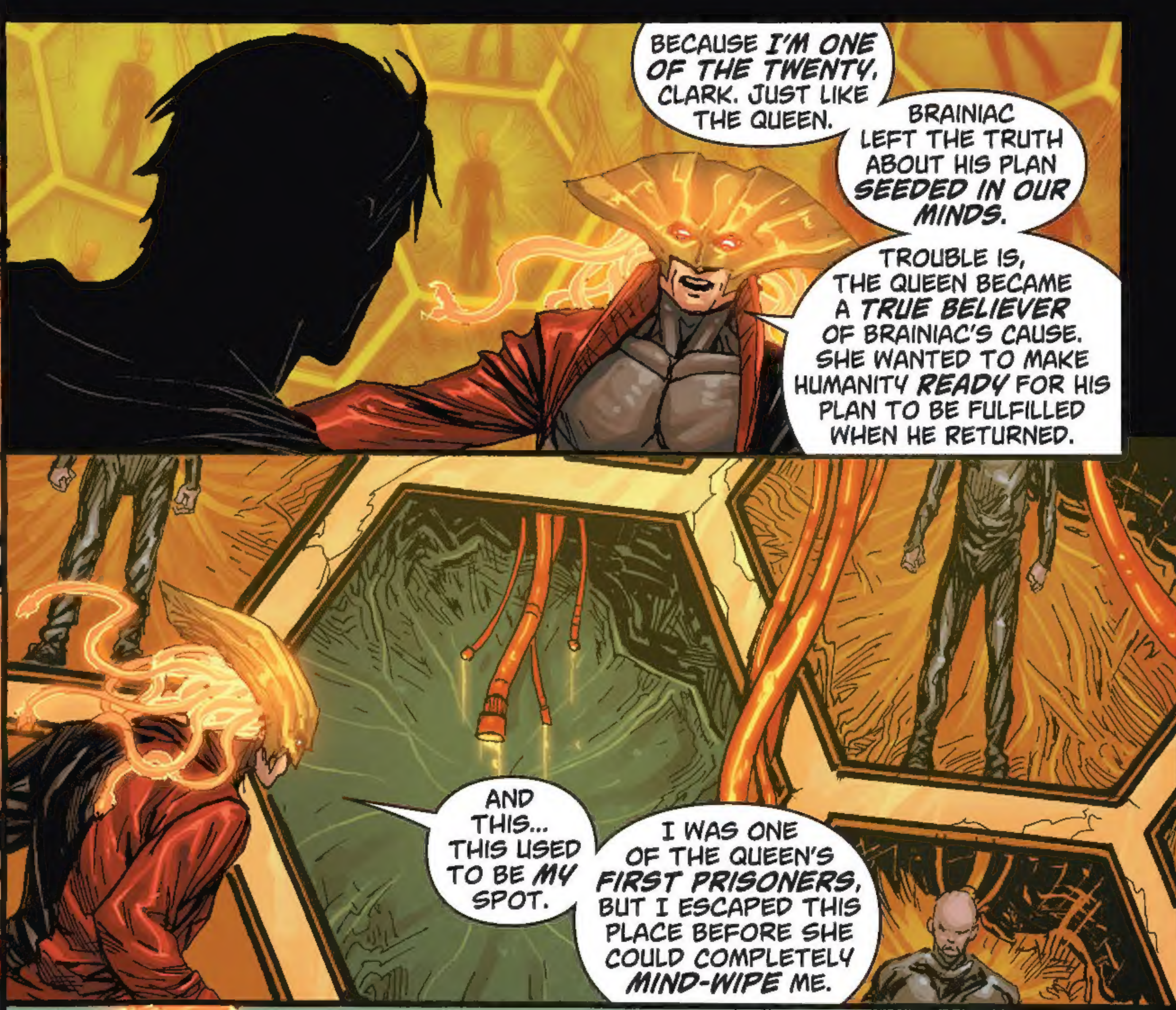
HE LEFT THE TWENTY BEHIND AS TEST CASES, TO SEE IF HUMANITY CAN BE USED AS VESSELS TO BE FILLED--



THE MINDS HE
UPLOADED BEFORE HIS
HOME WORLD WAS
DESTROYED.

BINGO
AGAIN.

BUT
HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ALL THIS?



BECAUSE I'M ONE
OF THE TWENTY,
CLARK. JUST LIKE
THE QUEEN.

BRAINIAC
LEFT THE TRUTH
ABOUT HIS PLAN
SEEDED IN OUR
MINDS.

TROUBLE IS,
THE QUEEN BECAME
A TRUE BELIEVER
OF BRAINIAC'S CAUSE.
SHE WANTED TO MAKE
HUMANITY READY FOR HIS
PLAN TO BE FULFILLED
WHEN HE RETURNED.

AND
THIS...
THIS USED
TO BE MY
SPOT.

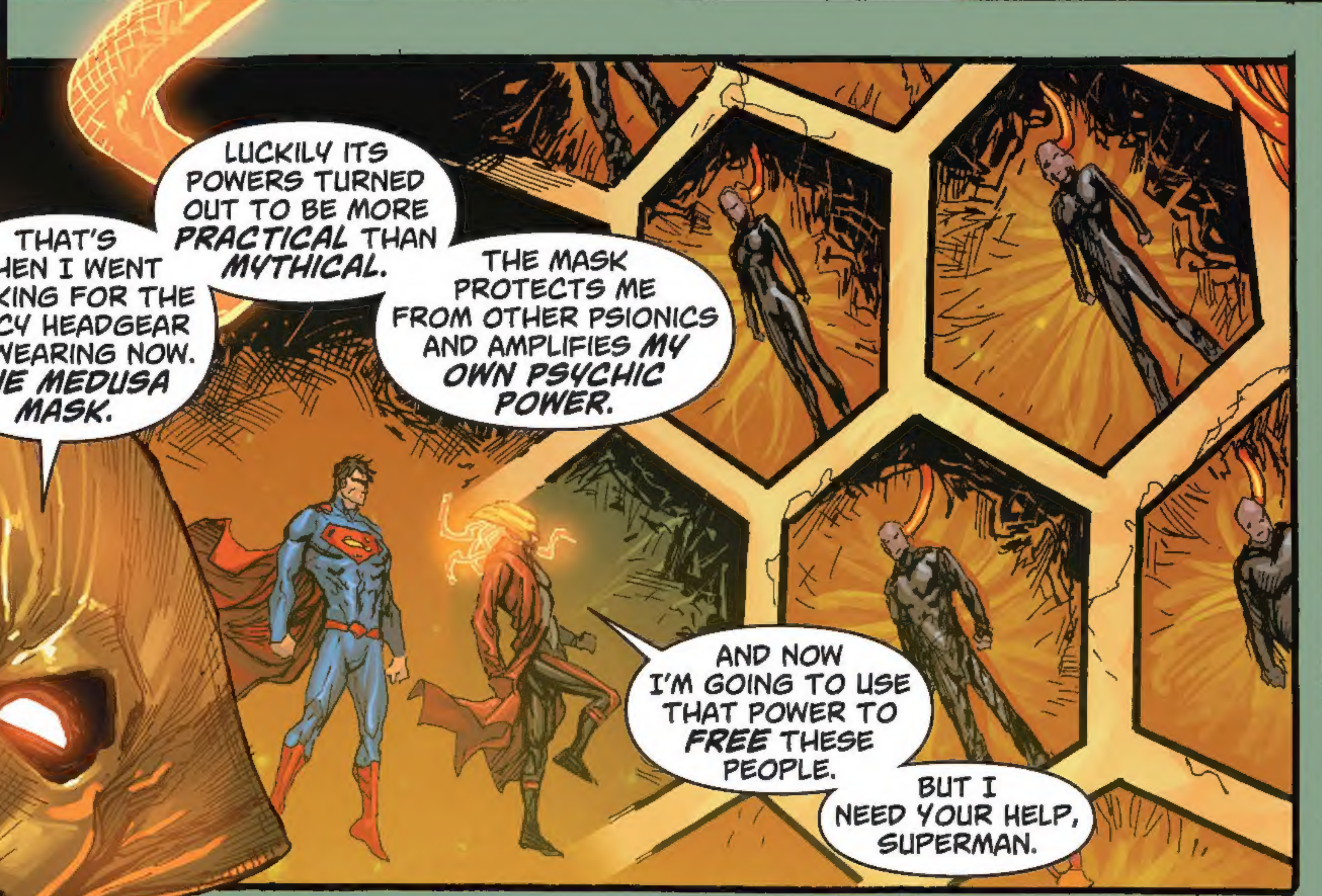
I WAS ONE
OF THE QUEEN'S
FIRST PRISONERS,
BUT I ESCAPED THIS
PLACE BEFORE SHE
COULD COMPLETELY
MIND-WIPE ME.



THAT'S
WHEN I WENT
LOOKING FOR THE
FANCY HEADGEAR
I'M WEARING NOW.
THE MEDUSA
MASK.

LUCKILY ITS
POWERS TURNED
OUT TO BE MORE
PRACTICAL THAN
MYTHICAL.

THE MASK
PROTECTS ME
FROM OTHER PSIONICS
AND AMPLIFIES MY
OWN PSYCHIC
POWER.



AND NOW
I'M GOING TO USE
THAT POWER TO
FREE THESE
PEOPLE.

BUT I
NEED YOUR HELP,
SUPERMAN.



I CAN
FEEL YOUR DOUBT.
YOU WONDER IF I'M
REALLY ON YOUR
SIDE.

YOU
WONDER IF I
CAN REALLY BE
TRUSTED.

WELL...



YES
AND
NO.

HAISSS

HAISSS

HIIAAS



YOU'RE
BURSTING WITH
PSIONIC ENERGY,
CLARK, AND YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW IT.

YOUR BRAIN
BURNS LIKE A STAR!
YOUR SYNAPSES
FIRE LIKE ALIEN
LIGHTNING!

AND I NEED
THAT ENERGY
TO FREE THESE
PEOPLE!

DON'T
STRUGGLE.

LET ME
DO WHAT NEEDS
TO BE DONE FOR
THE GREATER
GOOD!



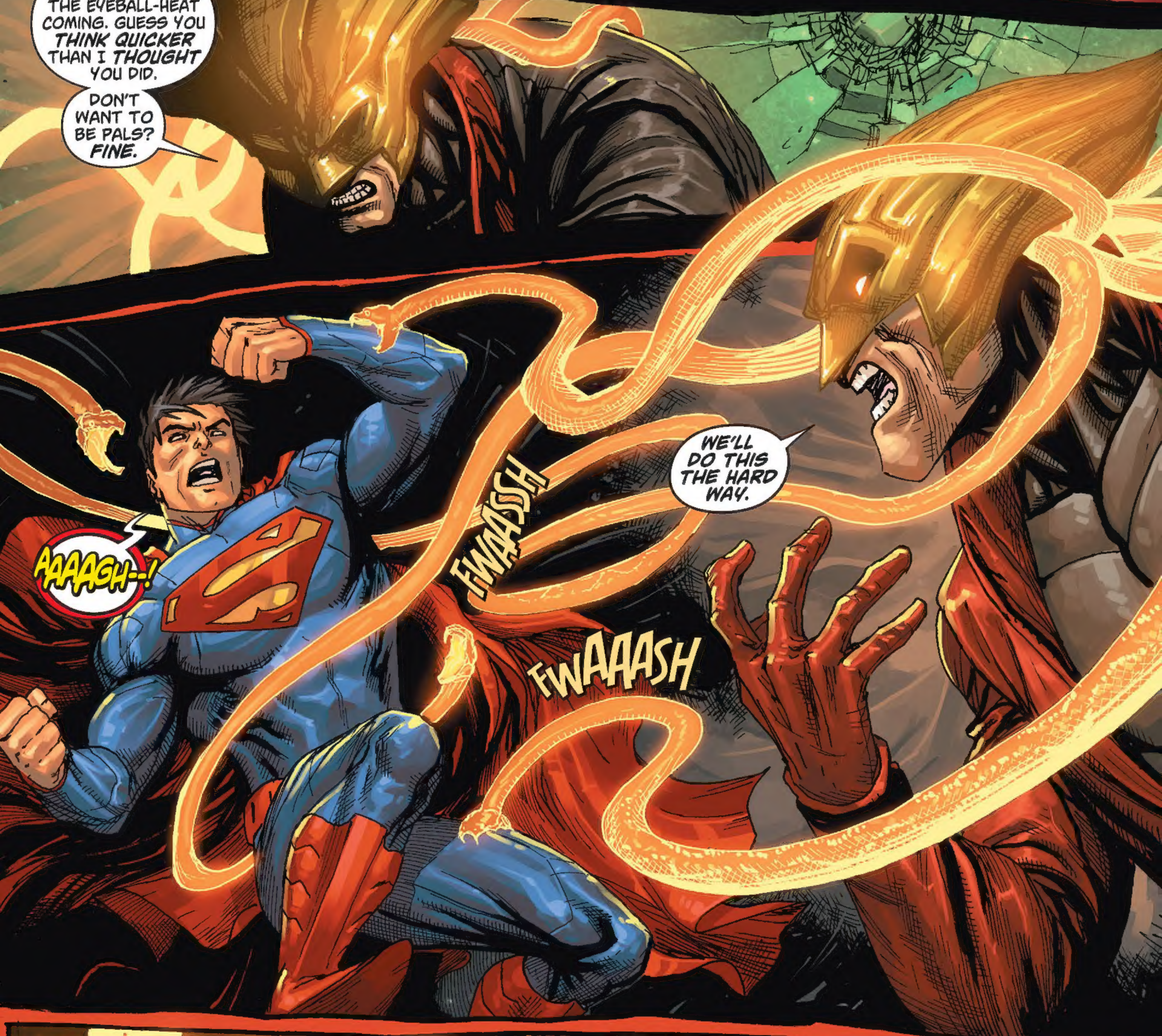
YOU'RE INSANE!

SHKOWN

WHAM

WOW. DIDN'T SEE THE EYEBALL-HEAT COMING. GUESS YOU THINK QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT YOU DID.

DON'T WANT TO BE PALS? FINE.



AAAAGH--!

FWAAASH

WE'LL DO THIS THE HARD WAY.

FWAAASH



BUT I'M CHANGING THE BATTLEFIELD, CLARK...

"...CHANGING IT
IN MY FAVOR."

WHA-?!

WHAT
JUST—

I WAS—

WHOA.

NEVER WOKEN
UP 'IN MIDAIR
BEFORE!

THAT WAS THE
WEIRDEST
DREAM!

(WAS I JUST
SLEEP-FLYING?!)

I WAS IN SOME SORT OF
GIANT BEEHIVE—AND I
WAS WEARING SOME KIND
OF BLUE AND RED—

ARMOR—

THAT
SOUND!

LIKE
SOMETHING
HEAVY FIRED
FROM BEL—

NNNH--!

WHA BOOM

BOOOOM

BOOOOON

SKIN'S STILL
INTACT--

(HOW STRONG
AM I?)

BUT MY EARS
ARE RINGING
LIKE CHURCH
BELLS--

THOSE WERE
TANK ROUNDS,
FIRED FROM
THE STREET!

WHOEVER DID IT
IS ABOUT TO
HAVE THEIR TOYS
TAKEN--



THERE IT IS!!

ALL UNITS FIRE AT WILL!!

BRING IT DOWN!!

RATATAT

KA-CHOOOM

RATATATATATA

RATATATATATA



THIS IS INSANE!

STOP!

I'M NOT A THREAT!

CHANK

CHANK

CHANK CHANK



NOT A THREAT, CLARK?

THEY JUST SAW YOU TAKE THREE ROCKETS TO THE CHEST! WHILE YOU WERE FLYING UNDER YOUR OWN POWER, BY THE WAY!


WHO--?

THEY'RE TERRIFIED!




YOU--
I--
REMEMBER
YOU!

OF
COURSE
YOU DO!



WE'RE
IN YOUR HEAD
NOW, CLARK! IN ORDER
TO BLEED YOUR MIND
DRY, I HAVE TO BREAK
THROUGH YOUR
NATURAL PSYCHIC
BARRIERS.

EACH BARRIER
TAKES THE FORM OF
A MEMORY. A MEMORY
I HAVE THE POWER TO
TWIST TO MY LIKING.
AND WHEN ALL YOUR
BARRIERS ARE BROKEN,
ALL YOUR MEMORIES
CORRUPTED...



...YOUR
MIND IS
MINE.

KABOOM



WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING FOR,
CLARK?

STOP
THEM BEFORE
THEY STOP
YOU!

NO!

I NEED TO
MAKE THEM
UNDERSTAND!
I'M ONLY HERE
TO HELP!

I'M
JUST--

JUST
A KID FROM
KANSAS, RIGHT?
RAISED ON BARBECUES
AND BALLGAMES!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE
THEM!

YOU WANT
TO TELL THEM
THAT. BUT YOU
KNOW YOU
CAN'T.

SO THEY
WILL NEVER
REALLY KNOW YOU.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT,
DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW
THAT THEY'LL ALWAYS
FEAR YOU.

I CAN TASTE
YOUR EMOTION, CLARK!
HERE YOU ARE IN THE
MIDDLE OF A FIREFIGHT,
AND THE ONLY THING
THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN
REALLY FEELS IS...



...HOMESICK.
IT WAS A
MISTAKE TO
EVER COME
HERE.

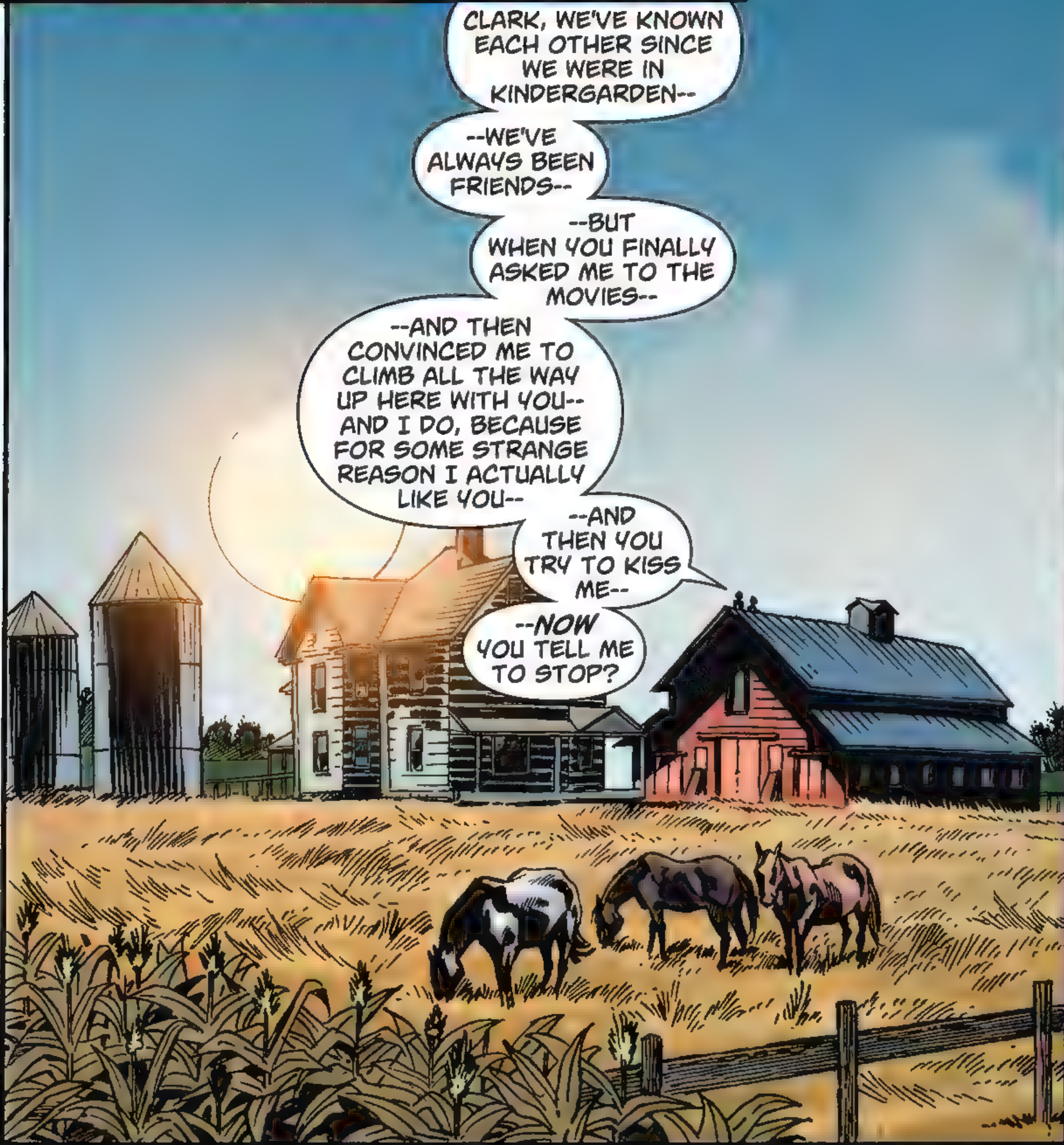
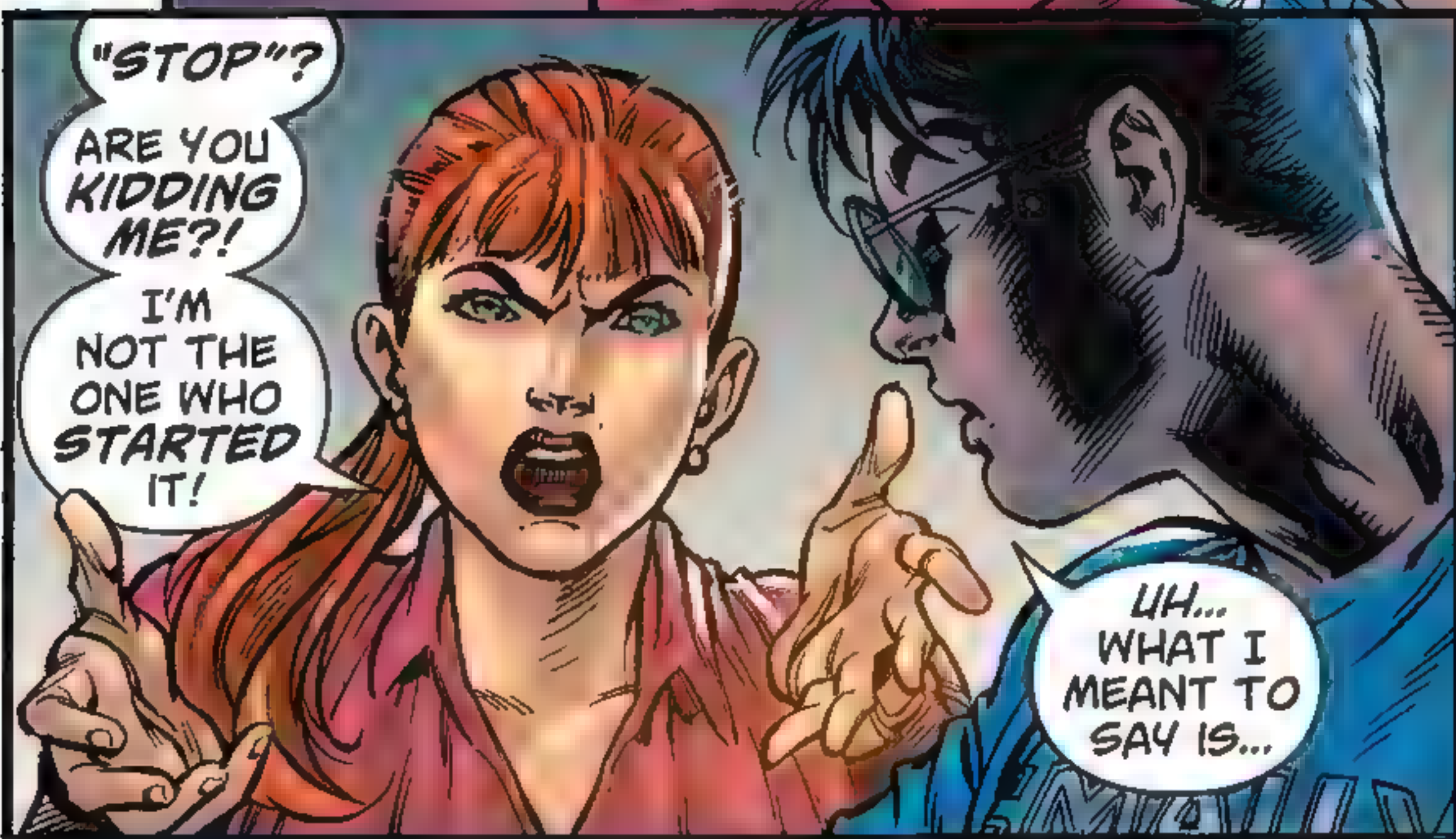
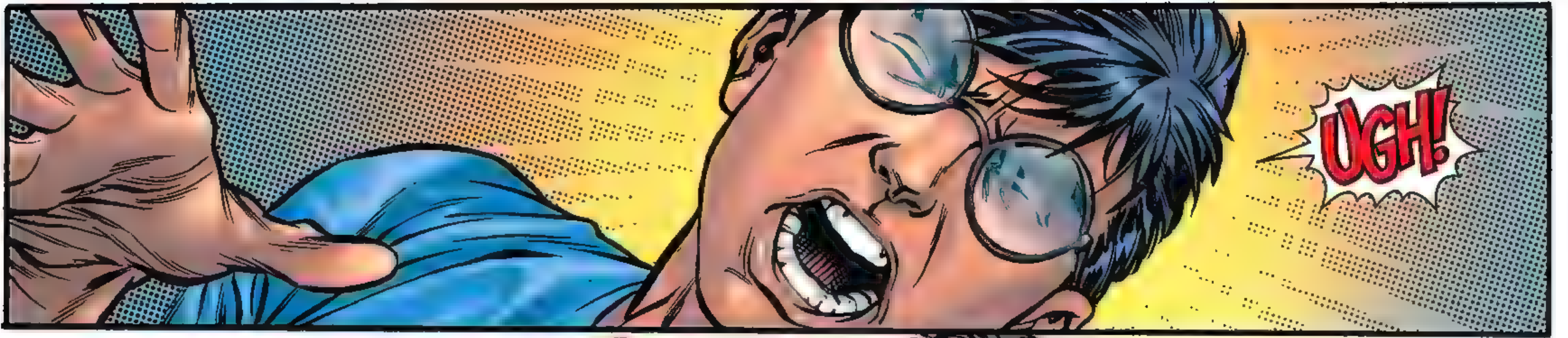
TO EVER
PUT ON THIS
CAPE.

I JUST
WANT TO GO
HOME.

OKAY,
CLARK...

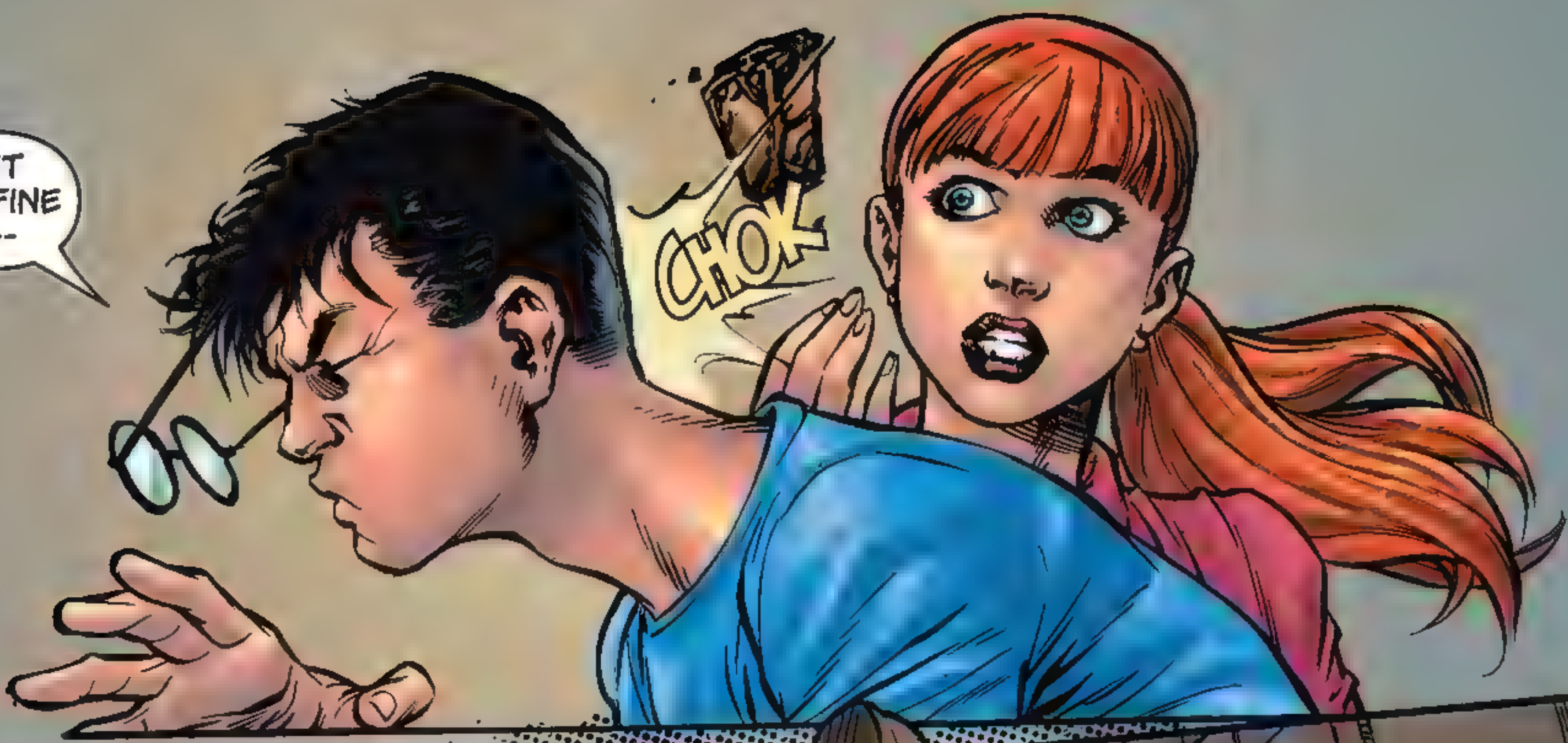


LET'S
GO
HOME.



BUT I'M FINE N--

CHOK



HA! GOT HIM ON THE FIRST TRY!



WHAMM

YOU REALLY THOUGHT YOU COULD SCORE WITH LANA LANG, KENT?



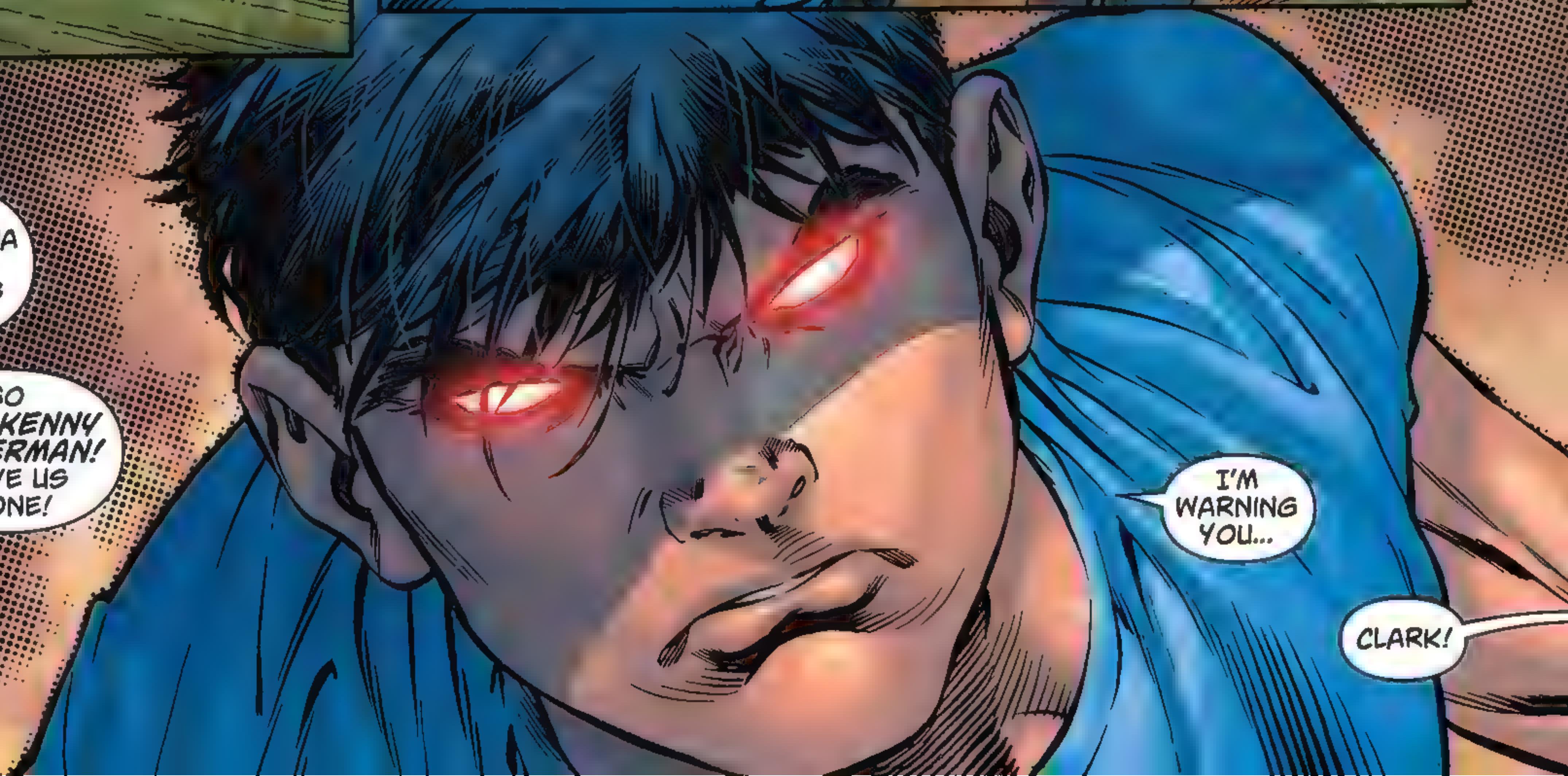
LEAVE ME ALONE, KENNY...



CLARK!!

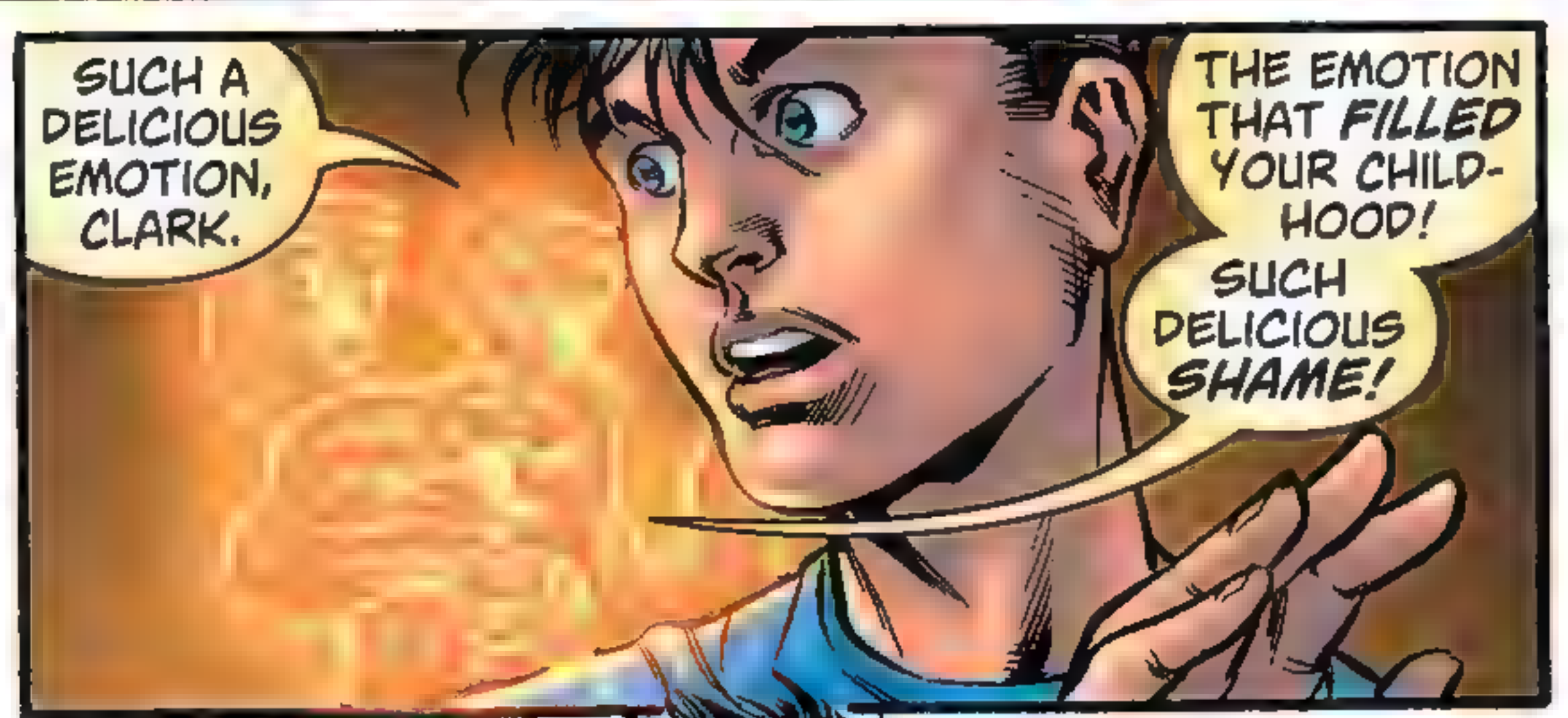
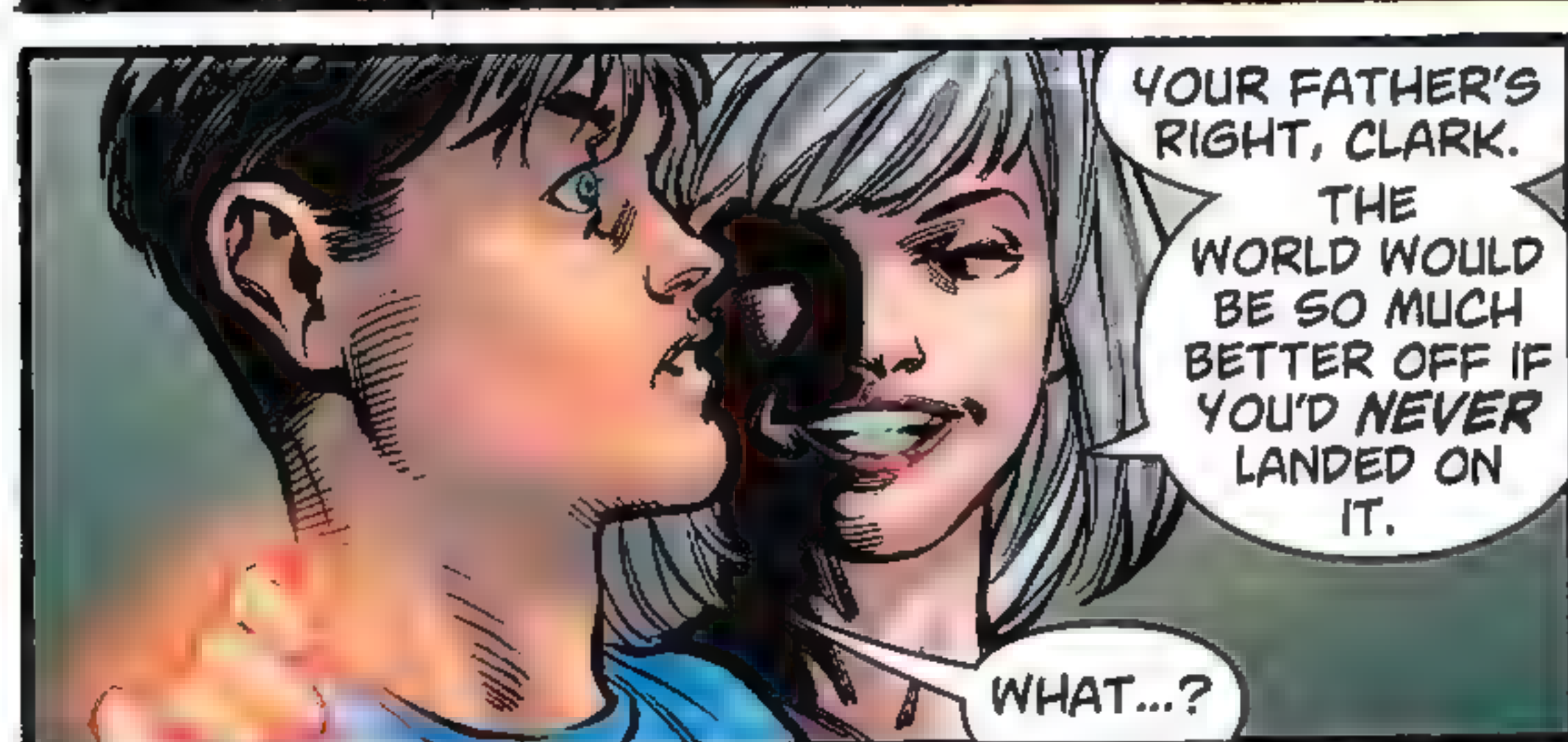
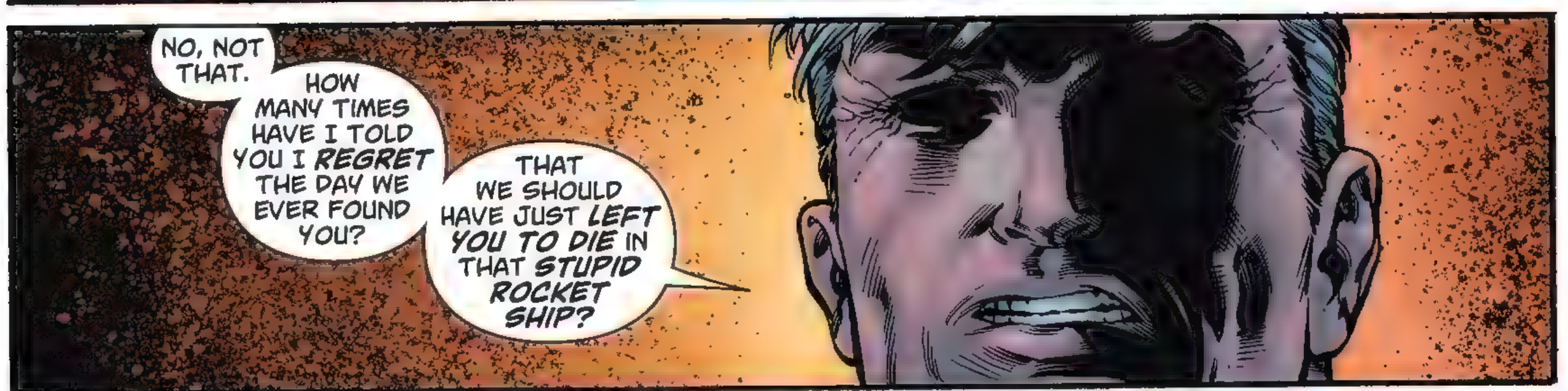
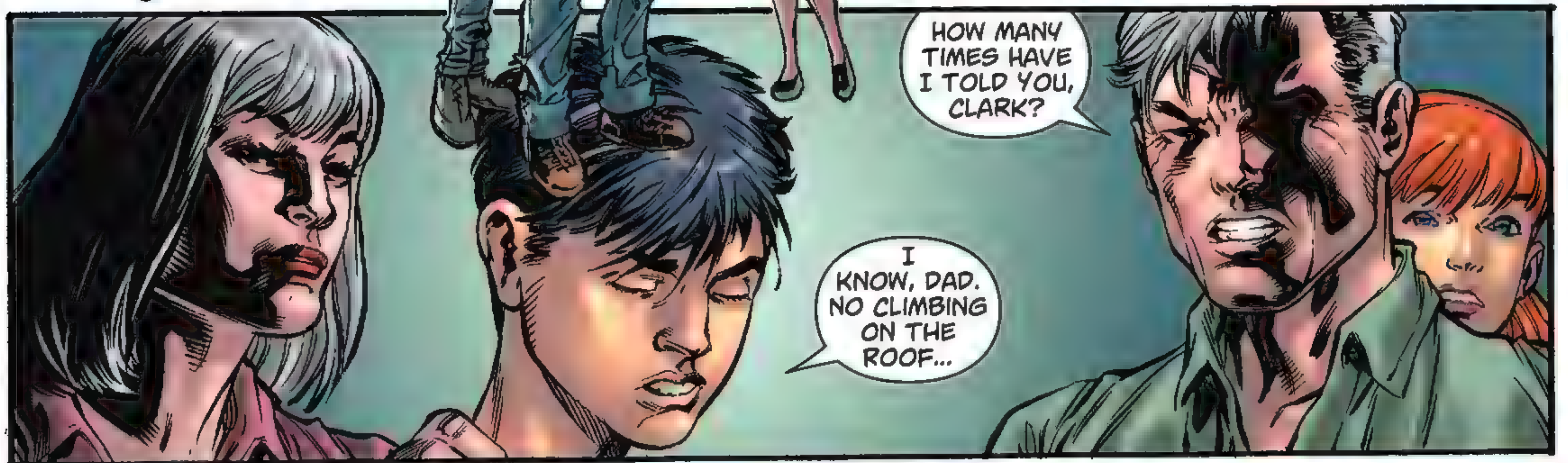
OR WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA SIC ONE OF YOUR COWS ON US?

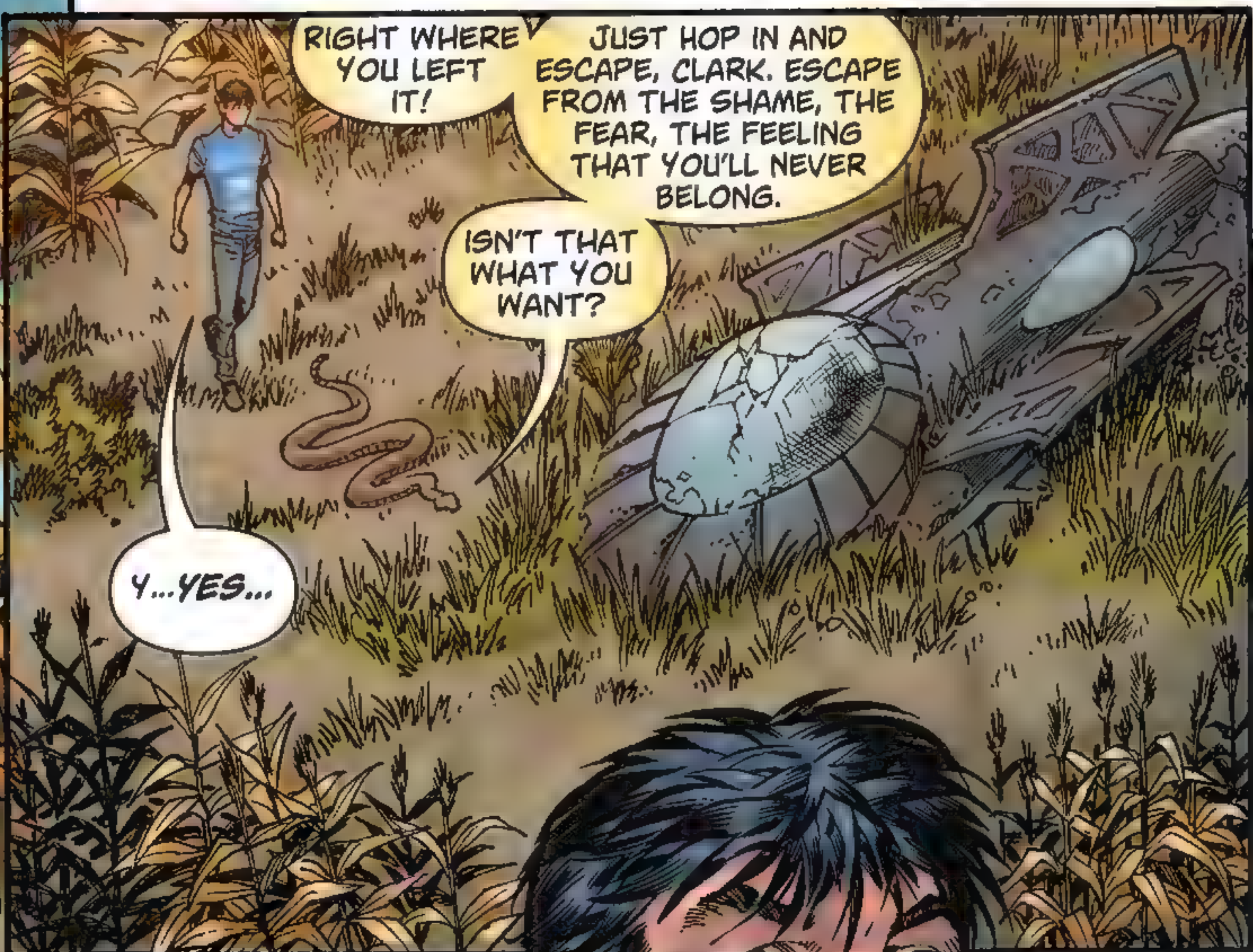
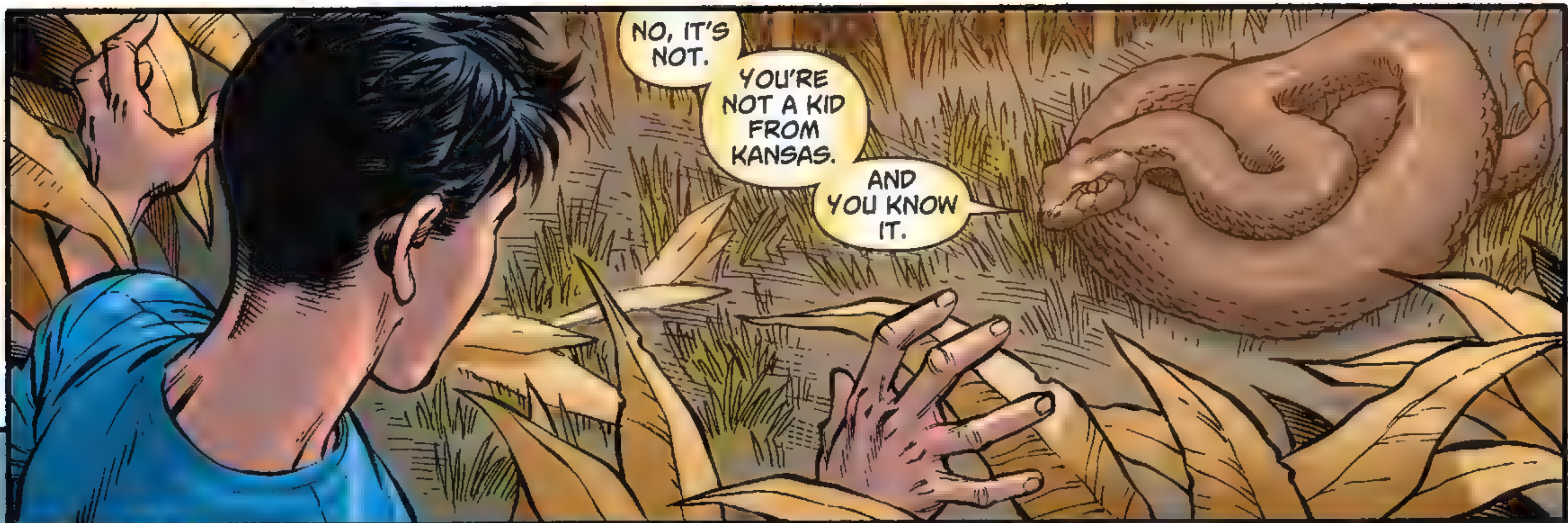
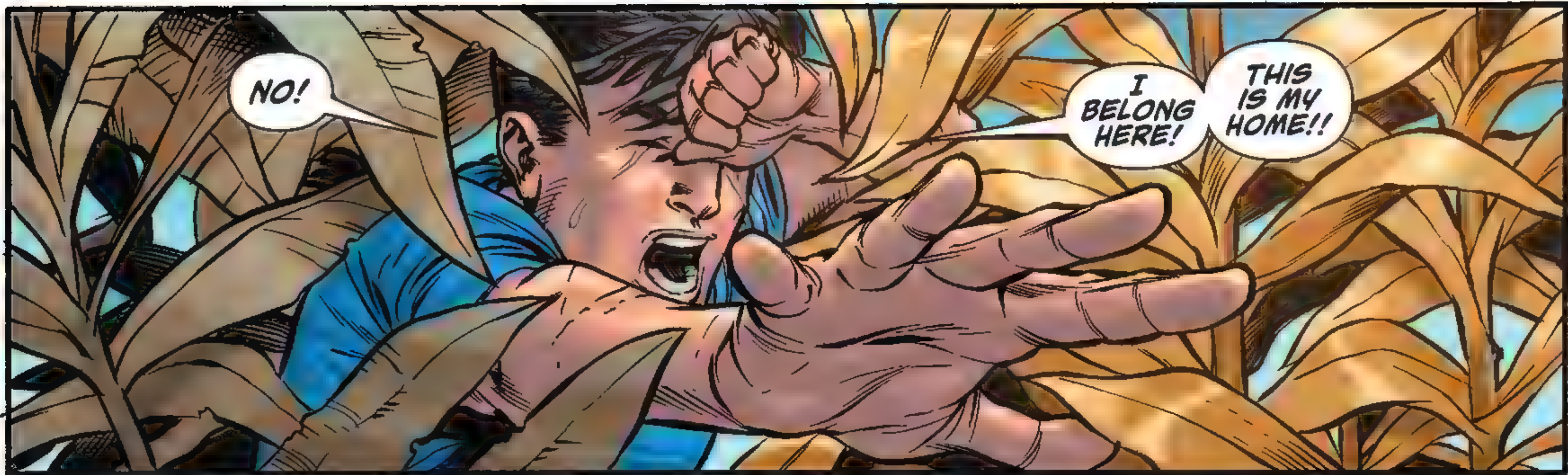
GO AWAY, KENNY BRAVERMAN! LEAVE US ALONE!



I'M WARNING YOU...

CLARK!







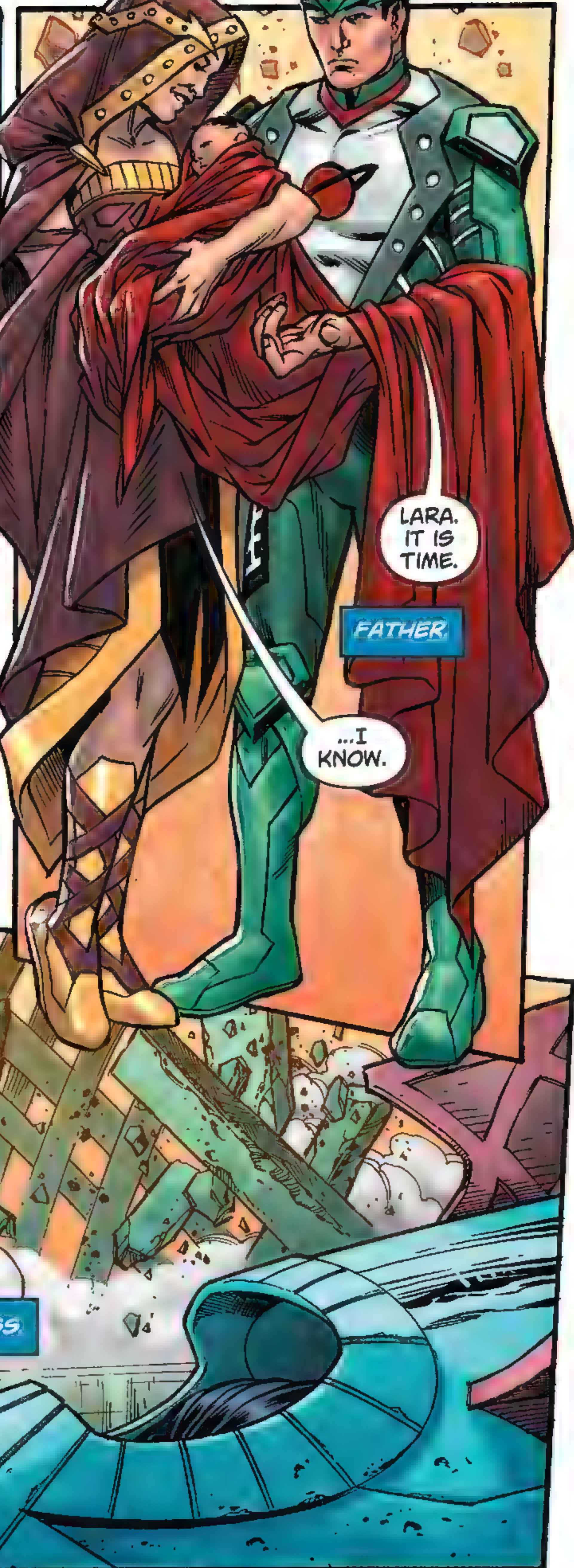
"WAKE UP,
KAL-EL."



THAT'S
IT...

I JUST WANT
TO SEE YOUR
BEAUTIFUL EYES
BEFORE...

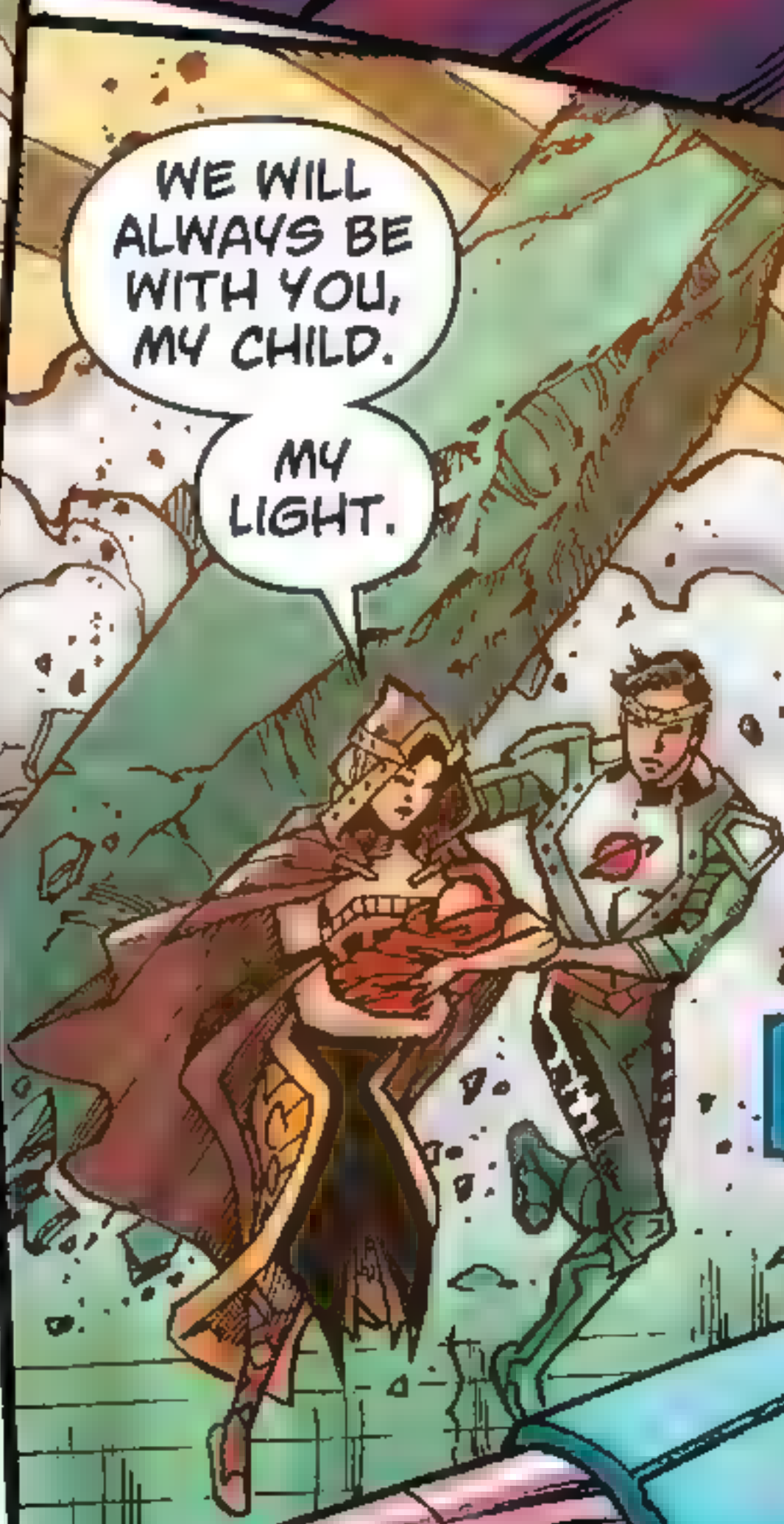
MOTHER



LARA.
IT IS
TIME.

FATHER

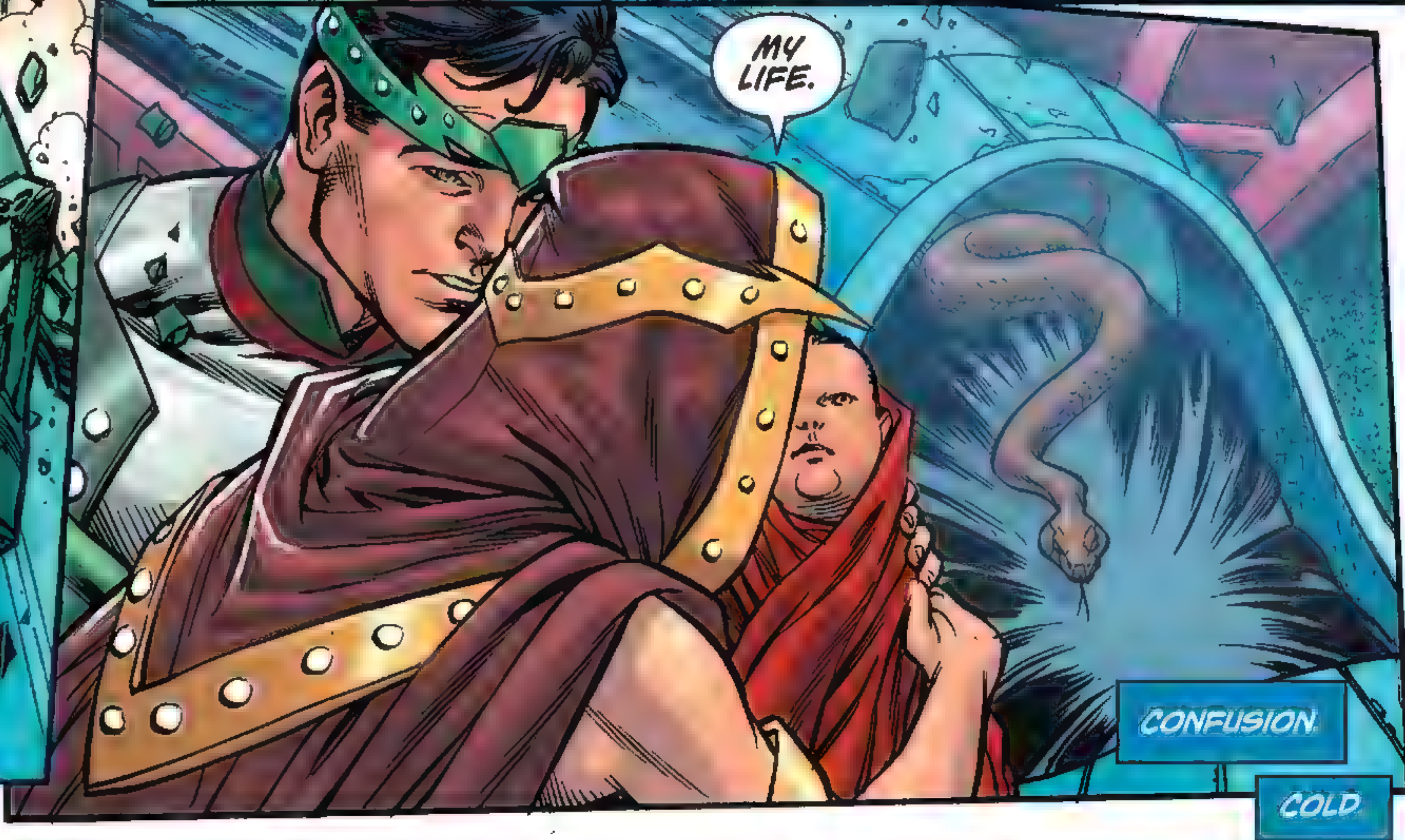
...I
KNOW.



WE WILL
ALWAYS BE
WITH YOU,
MY CHILD.

MY
LIGHT.

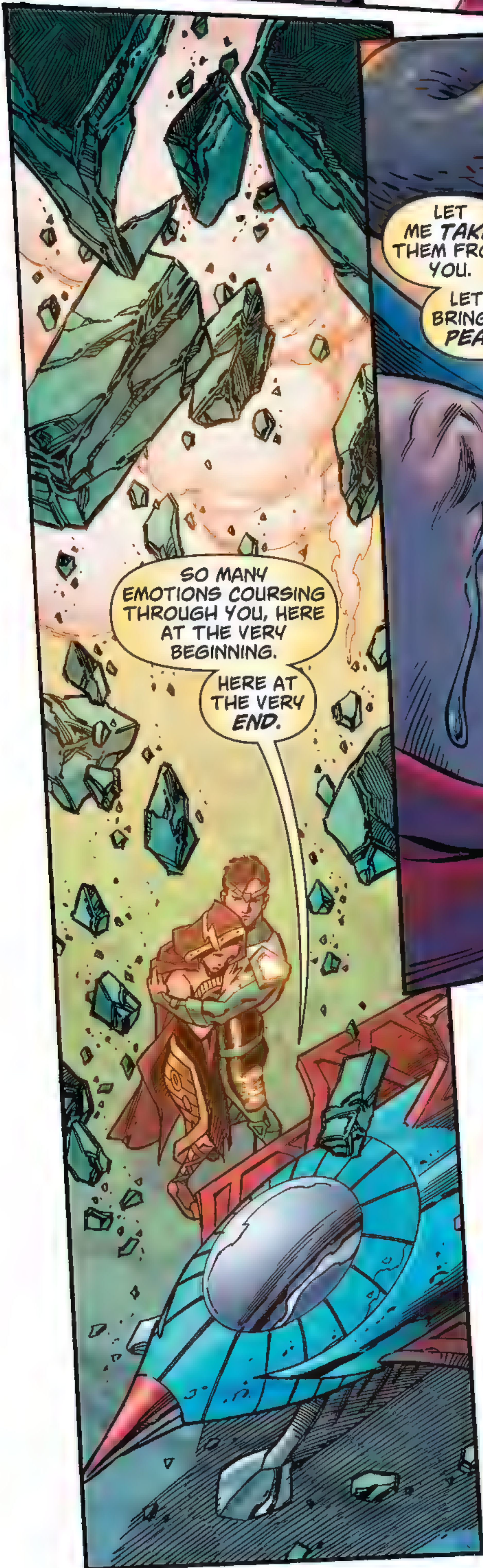
SADNESS



MY
LIFE.

CONFUSION

COLD





SLEEP...



WOW. I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU, CLARK...

...KAL...?

WHATEVER.

YOU HAVE THE MOST INCREDIBLE MIND IT'S EVER BEEN MY PLEASURE TO DRAIN DRY.

WELL, HAD, ANYWAY.



THIS CITY WILL BE LIBERATED, CLARK.

MENTAL SHACKLES WILL NO LONGER BIND ITS CITIZENS.

METROPOLIS, CITY OF THE MIND-- I JUST WISH YOU COULD BE AWAKE TO SEE--



SHRA KOWIN

AAGHK--!

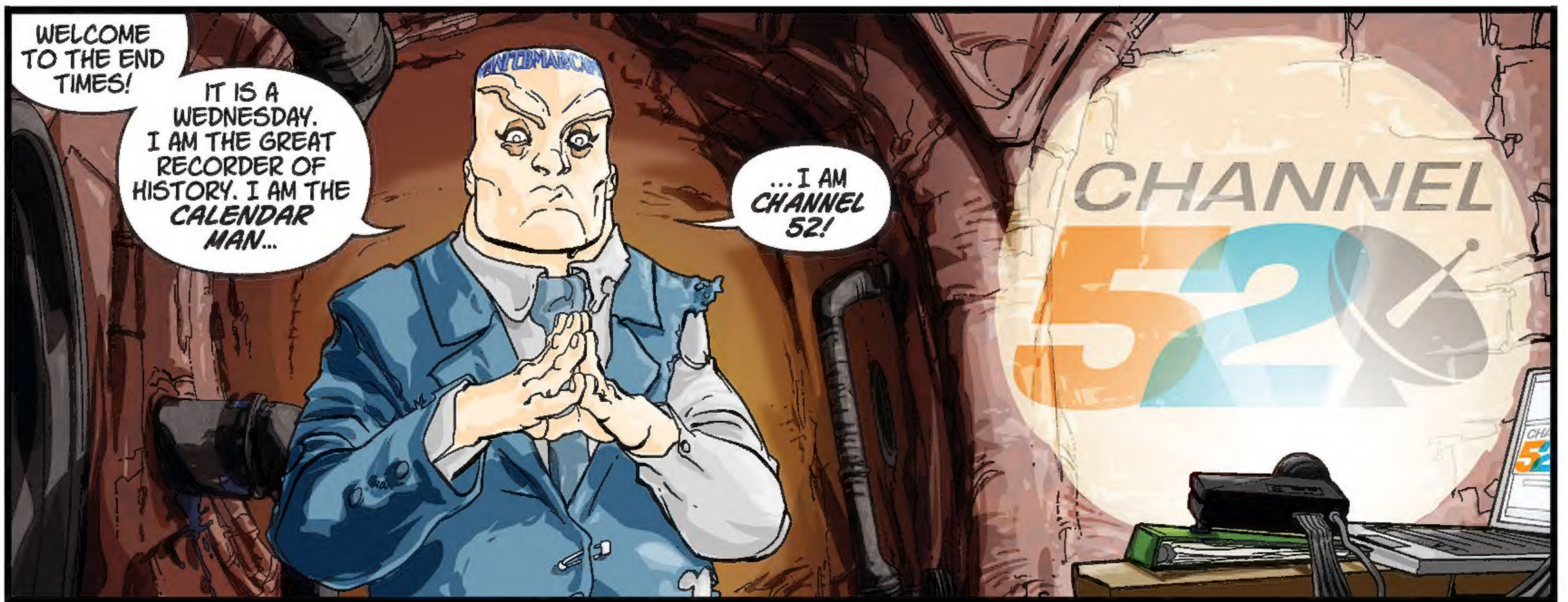


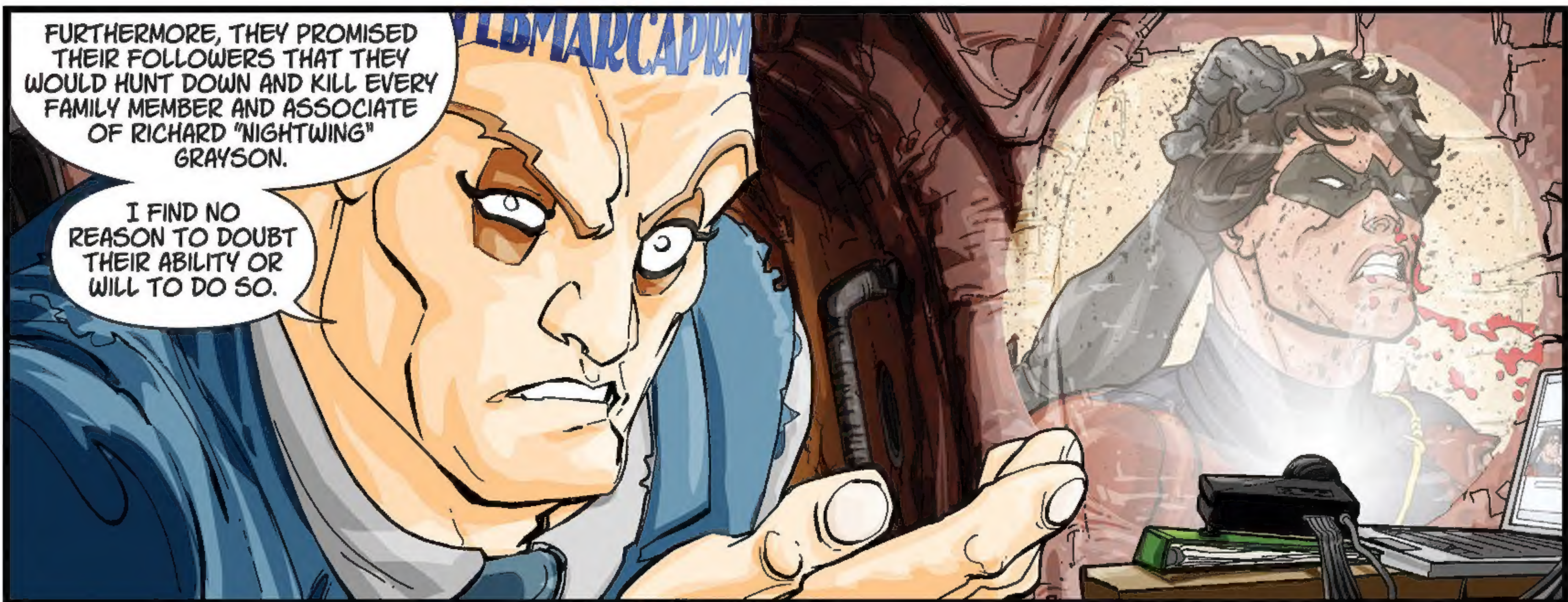
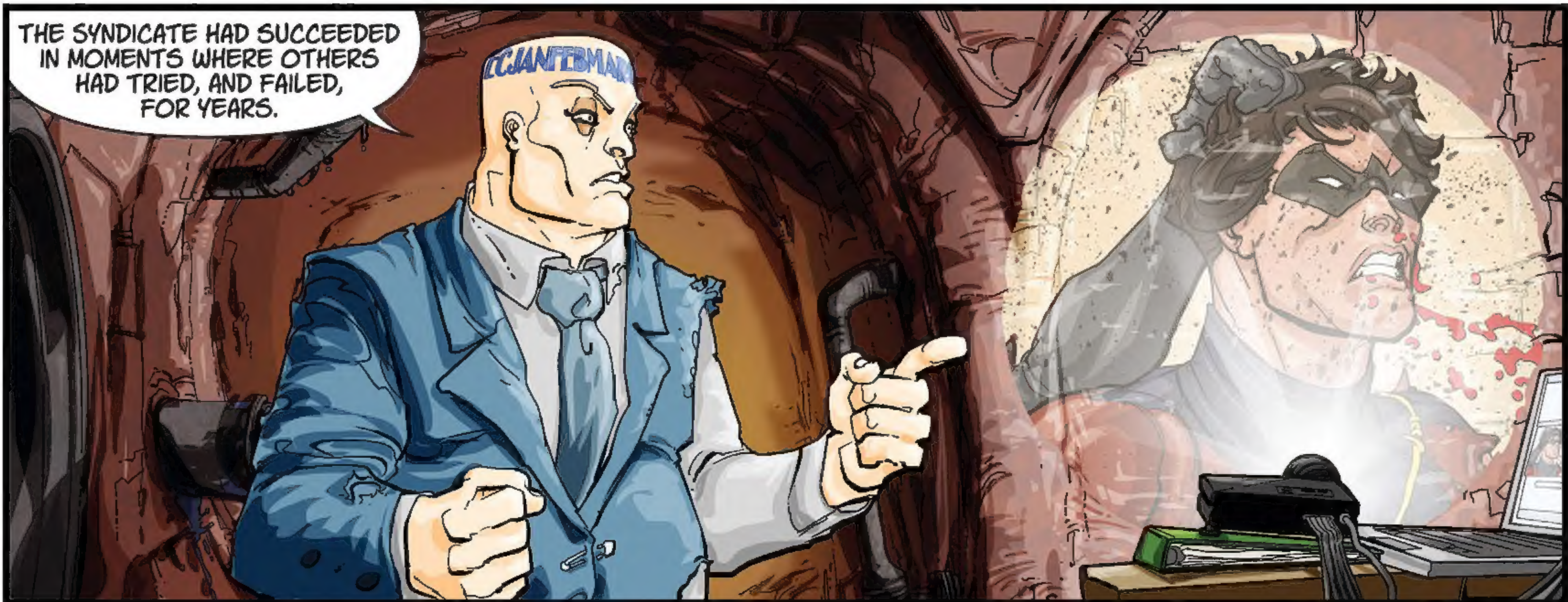
HI.
MY NAME'S LOIS.

I'M
HAVING AN
EXTREMELY
WEIRD
DAY.

IF YOU WANT
METROPOLIS--
--OR
SUPERMAN--

YOU'LL
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH ME
FIRST.







N

one